

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - a ~~digital data~~ processing system receiving a request for a function space, wherein
 - the ~~digital data~~ processing system ~~comprising stores~~ availability information for a plurality of function spaces at a plurality of properties and a set of pricing rules, and
 - the request ~~comprising~~ comprises a plurality of criteria;
 - a processor determining an availability of the ~~requested~~ function space, wherein
 - the determining the availability further comprises determining the availability based upon
 - some or all of the availability information, and
 - one or more of the plurality of criteria, and
 - a day part for which the function space is requested;
 - determining that ~~the a~~ requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is unavailable;
 - automatically providing a real-time price quote for the requested function space based on the set of pricing rules, wherein
 - in response to determining in spite of having determined that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is unavailable, an alternative to the requested function space is presented,
 - the alternative is selected as a closest approximation to the request,
 - the alternative is selected based on being fully available;
 - receiving an acceptance of the real time price quote for the requested function space from a user; [[and]]
 - establishing a reservation for the requested function space, wherein,

if said function space is unavailable, said reservation comprises an overbooking,
and
converting, after a delay, said reservation to a reservation for a specific space,
wherein
the converting comprises displaying a graphical representation of a
hierarchical relationship between a category space and the specific
space,
in the graphical representation, the category space is arranged vertically
with the specific space sharing a horizontal axis, and
the specific space comprises a specific space configuration,
the specific space configuration comprises one or more alphabetically-
identified specific spaces.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a rejection of the price quote for the requested function space from **[[a]]** the
user; and
providing **a set of** alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the establishing the ~~[[a]]~~ reservation for the requested function space includes allocating a function space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the plurality of criteria ~~of the request~~.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

9. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium that provides executable instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a function space, wherein

the request ~~comprising~~ comprises a plurality of criteria;

determining an availability of the ~~requested~~ function space, wherein

the determining the availability further comprises determining the availability based upon

some or all of availability information for a plurality of function spaces at a plurality of properties, and

one or more of the plurality of criteria;

determining that ~~the a~~ requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is unavailable;

automatically providing a real-time price quote for the requested function space based on a set of pricing rules, wherein

~~in spite of having determined~~ in response to determining that the requested function space satisfying the one or more of the plurality of criteria is unavailable, an alternative to the requested function space is presented,

the alternative is selected as a closest approximation to the request,

the alternative is selected based on the alternative being fully available;

receiving an acceptance of the real time price quote for the requested function space from a user; ~~[[and]]~~

establishing a reservation for the requested function space, wherein,

if said function space is unavailable, said reservation comprises an overbooking;

and

converting, after a delay, said reservation to a reservation for a specific space,

wherein

the converting comprises displaying a graphical representation of a

hierarchical relationship between a category space and the specific space,

in the graphical representation, the category space is arranged vertically with the specific space sharing a horizontal axis,

the specific space comprises a specific space configuration, and

the specific space configuration comprises one or more alphabetically-identified specific spaces.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the plurality of properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. **(Currently Amended)** The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the method performed by the processor further comprising:

receiving a rejection of the price quote for the requested function space from **[[a]]** the user; and

providing a set of alternatives to one or more of the plurality of criteria in real-time.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The machine-readable medium of claim 14 wherein the establishing the [[a]] reservation for the requested function space includes allocating a function space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the plurality of criteria ~~of the request~~.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:
a central **digital data** processing system having a memory device,
the memory device having stored thereon
availability information for a plurality of function spaces at a plurality of
properties, and
a set of pricing rules;
the central **digital data** processing system ~~being~~ having a processor configured
to provide an availability determination for a function space, wherein
the availability determination comprises a determination based upon
some or all of the availability information, [[and]]
the availability determination comprises a determination in response
to receiving a request for the function space; and
the central **digital data** processing system being further configured to
determine that [[the]] a requested function space satisfying the one or
more of the plurality of criteria is unavailable,
automatically generate a real-time price quote for the requested function
space based on the set of pricing rules, wherein
~~in spite of~~ if said availability determination by said central **digital**
data processing system ~~indicating~~ indicates that the
requested function space is unavailable, an alternative to
the requested function space is presented,
the alternative is selected as a closest approximation to the
request, and

the alternative is selected based on the alternative being fully available,

receive an acceptance of the real-time price quote for the requested

function space, **[[and]]**

establish a reservation for the requested function space, wherein,

if said function space is unavailable, said reservation comprises an overbooking,

convert, after a delay, said reservation to a reservation for the specific space, and

display a graphical representation of a hierarchical relationship

between a category space and the specific space, wherein

in the graphical representation, the category space is arranged vertically with the specific space sharing a horizontal

axis with the category space, and

the specific space comprises a specific space configuration,

wherein the specific space configuration comprises one or more alphabetically-identified specific spaces.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17 wherein the plurality of properties are individual hotels of a hotel chain.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein said central digital processing system is further configured to:

receive a rejection of the real-time price quote for the requested function space;

and

provide an alternative to said request in real-time in response to said rejection.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 22 wherein said central digital processing system is configured to establish the [[a]] reservation for the requested function space by allocating a function space of a specified category, the category specified by one or more category-related criteria included in the request.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23 wherein the category-related criteria include one or more criteria selected from the group consisting of attendance, event type, setup styles and area.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part and supplementary sales.

26. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the plurality of criteria includes criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part and supplementary sales.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein said request includes a plurality of criteria selected from a group of criteria consisting of date, day-part and supplementary sales.

28.-32. **(Cancelled)**

33. **(Currently Amended)** A method, the method comprising:
a **digital data** processing system receiving a request for a function space, **wherein**
the **digital data** processing system **comprising stores** availability information for
a plurality of function spaces **in a common reservation table,**
the common reservation table concurrently stores information related to an
inventory of a specific space and a category space representing the
function space,
each of the plurality of function spaces is located at one of a plurality of
properties.

~~in a common reservation table and~~ the data processing system stores a set of pricing rules,

the request ~~comprising~~ comprises a plurality of criteria,

the plurality of criteria comprises

a ranking of facility quality,

and

the pricing rules ~~including~~ comprise rules for pricing the function space based on a time of year;

a processor of a central reservation system data processing system determining an availability of the ~~requested~~ function space, wherein

the determining comprises determining the availability based upon some or all of the availability information, and one or more of the plurality of criteria, ~~wherein~~

~~said determining comprises determining said availability on a quality-specific basis and~~

said determining comprises determining the availability ~~is determined~~ contingent on a threshold revenue for the function space,

comprising the threshold revenue comprises

an expected food and drink revenue associated with the request, and

revenue derived from an expected number of sleeping room rentals

associated with the request, and

the threshold revenue is determined based on a day part for which the

function space is requested;

automatically providing a real-time price quote for the ~~requested~~ request ~~function space~~

based on the set of pricing rules, wherein

~~in spite of~~ in response to having determined that ~~[[the]]~~ a requested function space satisfying ~~the one or more of~~ the plurality of criteria is unavailable,

an alternative to the requested function space is presented, wherein

the alternative is selected as a closest approximation to the request,

the alternative is selected based on being fully available,

the pricing rules comprise

general pricing rules, and

property-specific pricing rules, and
 the real-time price quote includes a pricing discount based on ~~the~~
an attendance of ~~the~~ an event,
profit for one or more expected guest room rentals, and
an expected profit on food and drink sales;
in response to a user rejecting the real time price quote, presenting a plurality of
alternatives;
 receiving an acceptance of the real-time price quote for the ~~requested~~ function space
 from a user;
 establishing a reservation for the ~~requested~~ function space as the category space
 allocated for a length of time including a setup period and teardown period,
wherein
said length of time is determined in response to [[for]] a selected setup style
and the attendance, ~~wherein,~~ and
 if said function space is unavailable, said reservation comprises an overbooking;
 and
 converting, after a delay, said reservation ~~for the requested function space as category~~
~~space~~ to a reservation for the specific space, wherein
the converting comprises displaying a graphical representation of a
hierarchical relationship between the category space and the specific
space,
the category space is arranged vertically with the specific space sharing a
horizontal axis, and
the category space comprises a specific space configuration, wherein the
configuration comprises one or more alphabetically-identified specific
spaces
~~the specific space is selected from a set comprising an indivisible space and a~~
~~configured space of combined indivisible spaces.~~